

detect daylight from darkness, spent his lifetime in the area digging a tunnel which later proved to be headed directly for rich ore. However, old age and infirmity forced him to yield before he struck "pay dirt." He sold his claim to the Mayflower Corp., which was working from a different portal along with the Star of Utah group. Enough ore was transported by truck to Heber City from this portal that an extension spur of the Union Pacific Railroad was built to the property in 1941.

The Star of Utah and the Mayflower tunnel developments were eventually merged to form the New Park Mine, whose stock sold briskly on the New York Stock Exchange for several years.

This lead and zinc mining firm was a weird legal tangle when William Henry Harrison Cranmer took over as its president in 1934. The property was mortgaged, titles to its lands were clouded and there was a debt of some \$100,000. Mr. Cranmer borrowed money to clear liens against the title, sold small pieces of land to neighboring mining companies and struggled in many ways to secure sufficient capital to maintain operations.

Under Mr. Cranmer's leadership the New Park Mining Company has increased its property holdings from 1,100 acres to more than 10,000 acres. The Mayflower Mine has been modernized and a Mayflower Tunnel completed.

In recent years a depressed lead and zinc market has caused Mr. Cranmer to diversify New Park's holdings to overcome a slump in the company's mining operations. Now more of a holding company than an operating concern, New Park activity has embraced exploration in phosphate, potash, copper, gold, building stone, oil and uranium. Mr. Cranmer is also exploring and developing mineral lands in Wasatch County's Snake Creek Mining District.

New Park maintains its operating office at Keetley and its executive office in Salt Lake City. Gale A. Hansen is superintendent of mines at Keetley, with offices in the community's former school building.

The growth of Keetley as a community came largely as a result of the success of the Park Utah mine in the 1920's. The Ontario-Daly No. 2 Drain Tunnel had operated in the area since the late 1890's, but had never caused much community development. The tunnel, still operated by its owners, the United Park City Mines Company, was a dual blessing when it was completed. In addition to ridding the Ontario and Daly mines of excess water, it was a boon to farmers in the low-lands. Orson Hicken, David Hicken, Fred Hicken and others dug a canal to carry the waters down to the meadows.

Even before Keetley's mining boom, Mr. and Mrs. Gail Fisher lived in the area in a rambling farm house on the Fisher Ranch. When the Union Pacific Railroad came to the Keetley area in 1923 the community's future seemed secure, and Charles Roy Lenzi of Park City was hired to paint the houses and mine buildings that had been constructed around the Ontario-Daly tunnel. When the painting was completed, Mr. Lenzi

decided to settle in the new area. He brought his family from Park City and settled in one of the nine houses along the ridge of the hill east of the mine building. Other homes were occupied by Archie Henderson, Will O'Brien, William Luke, Roy Pettie, Paul Hunt, William Fife, Ralph Stringham and George D. Blood. Later a house was built on the side of the road going down the ridge. Frank Hyde and later Harry Wallace, superintendent of the Park Utah Consolidated Mines, lived in this home. Another five families built homes in the canyon back of the mine building. These were Charles Welch, Al Ross, E. A. Hewitt, Robert Hyde and William Haueter. Mine buildings included an office, shops, boiler room, boarding house, commissary and two bunk houses. Later, two more bunk houses were built to accommodate the 500 to 600 men who came to the area in its boom days.

George A. Fisher, who did much of the land development in the area, supervised most of Keetley's growth. He built five modern homes, a combination store and gas station, and later an apartment house. He served as mayor of Keetley from the 1920's until his death in July, 1954. As mayor he directed the erection of an imposing school building.

Mr. Fisher, as mentioned earlier, also named the community in honor of Jack Keetley. This name created an interesting condition when postal service was inaugurated in the summer of 1923. Charles Roy Lenzi was named as postmaster and the service was very well received in the community. However, George Blood, acting superintendent of mines, discovered in the official community records that the town's name had been incorrectly recorded as "Keatley." A sign had even been placed over the post office with this incorrect spelling.

When the error was brought to the attention of the Postmaster General in Washington, he had to cancel the appointment of Charles Lenzi as postmaster, then recorded the name correctly and reappointed Mr. Lenzi as postmaster. This was done in November, 1923. Mr. Lenzi served continuously as Keetley's postmaster until 1952 when he retired and the post office was discontinued.

where
was
the
bldg?



Charles Roy Lenzi,
postmaster of Keetley
from 1923 to 1952.



and Lettie Lenzi, his
wife and assistant
postmaster.

One of the most grueling tasks connected with mining in Keetley was hauling ore to Heber City before the railroad came to the area. Loads were weighed in at John A. Fortie's weighing station, and then the teamsters drove the distance to Heber's railroad depot. Some of the teamsters who shared the difficult assignment were James Provost, William Provost, William D. Murray, Bert Murray, John (Jack) Casper, Tom Harper, Craig Fisher, Ewing Peterson, Henry Clegg, John Noakes, Frank Hicken, George Giles, Hyrum Winterton, Theodore Jaspersen, Moroni Casper, Ray Davis, Leland Wootton, Addison O. Moulton, Henry Baird, Alwin Baird, John (Jack) Turner, Tom Rasband, Don Rasband, Arthur Moulton, Ernest Hicken, David Murdock, Clifford McDonald, Otto McDonald, and William Holmes.

Depressed mining conditions in recent years have resulted in a slowing down at Keetley. Many families have moved away, but the community is far from a "ghost town." Those who have remained carry on an active life in working at the mines, engaging in farming and operating the motel and other businesses along much traveled U.S. Highway 40.

The intrigue of prospecting for gold and other precious metals will probably keep Keetley alive forever. The fortunes that have been lost in fruitless shafts and barren tracts will never discourage some from believing that there are still new fortunes to be made.

Typical of this is the case of "Pete" Johnson, who prospected for years in Dutch Canyon. About 1923 he proposed to some fellow miners at the Park Utah that they join together in a prospecting venture. Roy Lenzi, George Olson, Lee Johnson, Charles Smith and Bert Lindsay agreed to grub-stake "Pete" in his efforts to find ore.

For more than a quarter of a century the claimants referred to their claim as the "Lost Capital of Poverty Gulch." However, in recent years "Pete" passed away, and when his estate was settled the claim was sold to the New Park Mining Company, and each of the participants received at least double their original investment.

With many others, they still believe that gold lies concealed in "them thar hills!"

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

The "Other Faces" of Wasatch

Any area that reaches the century mark in its growth stands as another witness to the most common phenomenon of life—change. Wasatch County is no exception. Prosperous Provo Valley has flourished as men have changed the landscape and introduced improved, new ways of living.

Some areas of Wasatch County have changed more than others. The "boom and bust" area of Soldiers Summit was once a flourishing community and now is a ghost town. Hailstone or Elkhorn was the scene of a prosperous lumbering operation and now is little more than a widened highway. Developments were begun in both Provo Canyon and Daniels Canyon, and these, too, have given way to new highway projects. Still another changing area in the extreme north east part of the county is Strawberry Reservoir, a delightful resort and fishing spot, now undergoing a transition through conservation and wildlife practices.

SOLDIERS SUMMIT

Tragedy, a railroad boom and now near oblivion are the brief steps of history in Soldiers Summit, one of the few communities in Wasatch County that lies outside Provo Valley.

The ghost town of today had its beginning about 1862 in the midst of tragedy. Soldiers from Johnston's Army that had been stationed at Camp Floyd were recalled to aid in the Civil War. Desiring to return to the East as quickly as possible many of the soldiers started up Spanish Fork Canyon along the pass between the Colorado Basin and the Great Basin. Caught in a blizzard common to the high mountain country, they died from exposure. The bodies were buried near the pass at a spot which became known as "Soldiers Summit" in their honor.

Years later as railroads began operating in the state the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad found it advantageous to establish a traffic control point at the summit. Extra locomotives were needed to pull the trains over the pass, and the crews that operated these engines were based at Soldiers Summit. A round-house was built there to be used in turning the locomotives around, and the area began to flourish.

In 1919 a real estate firm headed by H. C. Means began to promote the area in a development program. The government, which at that time was operating the railroads, threw its support behind the development and the boom was on.

Soldiers Summit was incorporated as a city in 1921 by H. O. Means.